Prairie Fire

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SFU WINDS UP OPERATION

By BARRY LIPTON

Last week the Saskatchewan Farmers Union held its last convention in Saskatoon before official merger with the new National Farmers Union.

The convention was not one of nostalgia for the passing of an old institution but one of desperation. Many farmers realize that time is running out for the farm economy.

This desperation was seen in several of the resolutions that were presented to the convention.

One of the resolutions called for the separation of the four Western Provinces from the rest of Canada. It was soundly defeated.

But in what has been described as one of the best debates in the SFU's 20-year history, it was pointed out that even if the four western provinces separated, the economic system that exploits the farmers would still be the same.

Otto Lang speaks to SFU convention.

"We will only change one set of pirates for another set of pirates," NFU president Roy Atkinson said.

In his opening address Mr. Atkinson said, in part, that "Living as we do in the farm community, we who are aware have witnessed the rural depopulation -- farmers forced from their land, farmers bankrupt--many who had worked hard broken in health and spirit and broken economically, by forces outside their communities, by forces far beyond them, by forces most did not know or could not understand.

He went on to say, "What of the future? This year has been the beginning. You have broken all the records. You have marched. You have organized. You protested. You have demonstrated. You have learned how much power you possess if it is organized and used.

"I propose we put that power together on a national basis. Power respects power. You have it. Let's use it.

An indication of the province's bad economy was the call to unite with other groups in the province to present a united front to government and the corporate society.

In a motion that had good debate and was passed by an almost unanimous vote, the delegates called on the farmers' union to "support the demands of the hospital workers" and to "support the rallies, by providing spokesmen, in Regina and Saskatoon, backing the workers' demands."

On Wednesday Hon. Douglas MacFarlane, Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. Otto Lang, federal minister in charge of the Wheat Board, addressed the convention. They described problems about which the farmers there already knew, and they offered little in the way of solutions.

Lang said that he would look into more positive policies of the illegal provincial transport of feed grains.

This was after a resolution was presented asking:

1) that the Canadian Wheat Board enforce the laws concerning inter-provincial trucking of feed grains;

2) that the Board empower the NFU to enforce the laws;

3) if neither of these 2 resolutions were carried out that the NFU police the regulations on its own.

The farmers were not happy after the address of the two ministers. The talk in the rooms that night was of being sold out by "politicians", and that a change in the system was necessary - that "corporate power" had to be replaced with "farmer power."

FOUR POLICE CHARGED

Four Regina policemen, including a detective on the morality squad, were charged last week with assault causing bodily harm.

The charges arose out of a complaint taken to the RCMP on behalf of Carl Harris, 23, of Regina.

All four police charged are members of the criminal investigation division. They are: Detective Frank Mayowski; Constable Harry Roney; Constable Ed H. Swayze; and Constable Dan D. Nicurity.

The charges were laid following a lengthy investigation by the RCMP.

Police Chief Arthur G. Cookson has been unavailable for comment.

In a statuatory declaration, Mr. Harris said he suffered a broken nose, and severe bruises to his face and back when beaten by men in two cars on a country road east of the city October 16.

NO BREAK IN HOSPITAL STRIKE

By LIZ KALMAKOFF

Non-medical hospital workers in Estevan and Prince Albert are still on strike for a decent living wage.

Hospital workers in Weyburn, Humboldt, North Battleford, and Yorkton have voted to strike, but no date has been set for their actions.

The workers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, have repeatedly said they will stay on the picket lines until they have won a fair contract.

The Thatcher government appears to be playing a waiting game. Its only alternative to granting the strikers' demands is to force them back to work by invoking the "Essential Services Emergency Act." This it is reluctant to do, since public support for the strikers is very high.

Moral and financial support has been received from several unions in the Estevan and Prince Albert areas. The Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, at its convention last week, passed a resolution expressing "support (for) the demands of the hospital workers."

Citizens' committees in Regina and Saskatoon have planned rallies to support the strikers

For further details on the hospital situation, see the PRAIRIE FIRE special supplement included in this week's edition. The PRAIRIE FIRE has printed 25,000 copies of this supplement and is having them distributed all over the province.

SPECIAL HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENT

* EDITORIAL: *

HEALTH FOR WHOM?

The present crisis in Saskatchewan's hospitals focuses our attention on the larger problem of hospitals and medicine in our country -- on their basic inadequacy for serving the needs of the people.

The big-business government, which is too busy serving foreign corporations to pay hospital workers a decent salary, is unable to provide a medical system which helps people prevent and cure sickness and disease effectively.

There are two types of medicine. One type exists in countries that are dominated by monopoly capitalism.

It puts profits for drug companies and big salaries for doctors above the basic needs of the people. It is the subjective medicine of specialists and experts, who look at peoples' sickness in isolation from their living conditions and who are not willing to communicate their knowledge to the people so that they can prevent sickness.

It looks after people who can afford to be looked after.

Then there is Peoples' medicine. It puts health before wealth and the *prevention* of sickness above all else.

It sees sickness objectively--as a product of living conditions and living standards.

The hero of this type of medicine is Norman Bethune, a Canadian doctor. Bethune was a socialist. He fought for socialist--Peoples'--medicine.

Bethune was not interested in selling out to the rich. He was actively engaged in serving the poor of Montreal and in fighting their rich oppressors.

He practiced medicine among the workers during the Depression. He founded the Montreal Group for the Security of the Peoples' Health and also the Children's Art School.

He took the working-class and socialist line in medicine. His interests were in developing preventive medicine and in creatively applying curative medicine. He saw health and sickness objectively, in a political way.

Living conditions, Bethune said, were responsible for disease. There is a rich man's and a poor man's sickness: "The rich man recovers, the poor man dies."

He saw that sickness is related to economic conditions, that it can never be done away with when the majority of people are exploited and oppressed by the people that own the means of production.

So Bethune fought the struggle of the poor and the working class against the ruling class. In the 30's, he was sent to Spain and later to China by the Communist Party of Canada. He was sent to serve the people of those countries and their armies in the fight against fascism and imperialism.

Bethune applied Peoples' medicine in both these countries by mobilizing crews of doctors and nurses to go out among the wounded and the sick, by developing new techniques, and by putting the peoples' needs ahead of his own. He died in 1939 while serving the Chinese people.

The work of the great Canadian doctor Norman Bethune sheds light on the nature of medicine in Saskatchewan, as in all places dominated by monopoly capitalism.

Is the big-business government going to provide us with socialist medicine, with a good living for hospital workers? Obviously not. In that case, it is not worthy of existing, and it should be dealt with accordingly.

THE PRAIRIE FIRE

The PRAIRIE FIRE is published weekly on Tuesdays by The Regina Community Media Project, a non-profit organization. Mailing address is 2640 Angus Boulevard, Regina. Office phone is 527-8340.

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DON'T MOURN - ORGANIZE!

- Joe Hill, IWW organizer, before his death

You can kill revolutionaries, but you can't kill the revolution.

These were the words of Chairman Fred Hampton of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party three weeks ago in Regina.

Chairman Fred was killed by representatives of the State Attorney's office last week.

The policy of state hate and violence had been carried out and another Black Panther was dead.

Chairman Fred said in a PRAIRIE FIRE interview that the Black Panther program of hot breakfast for children, free medical clinics and community control of police were educational in that they showed the people that they could control their lives.

The Black Panthers have been successful in working among the American Blacks. They have shown through their work that there is a socialist alternative to the present racist exploitation.

The repressive machinery of the State has been brought to bear on the Panthers.

The leadership is being jailed or murdered across the United States.

But the Blacks have learned many lessons about the nature of the society they live in. They have armed themselves to defend themselves and their communities against aggressors.

They make no mistake in their defensive stance. They are not armed against the people. They are armed against the oppressive police.

The Panthers have made it plain that if they are attacked they will defend themselves.

The ruling class is the same in Canada as it is in the U.S. The police serve the ruling class in Canada as they do in the U.S. They protect those with power and their private property from the wrath of the people.

In Montreal last October when the police went on strike, many people attacked the property of the rich -- the Murray Hill Limosine Company and the T. Eaton Company, for example.

In Saskatchewan, the RCMP has been used to put down the Indians and Metis is 1885 and many times since. It was the RCMP that moved against the Estevan coal miners in 1931. It was the RCMP that were ordered from Ottawa to stop the march of the unemployed in Regina in 1935.

Chairman Fred Hampton's name now joins the list of the many people who have died in fighting for the rights of their people.

Many more will die before the fight is won, but the struggle for a more progressive social system will continue.

Due to our aquiring new type setting machinery the PRAIRIE FIRE will not be published until January. The PRAIRIE FIRE will appear in new form. WATCH FOR IT!

IN MEMORY OF FRED HAMPTON

Over 100 people held a memorial torchlight parade last Friday night for the slain Chairman of the Illinois Black Panthers, Fred Hampton.

The marchers wound through downtown Regina, handing out copies of the Black Panther Party Program and an interview that Hampton gave The PRAIRIE FIRE during his late-November visit to the city.

Hampton was shot by police in Chicago last Wednesday night, two weeks after he and two other Panthers addressed various groups in Regina and other Canadian cities. Police were firing their guns as they broke into his apartment, claiming they had come to arrest him for illegal possession of weapons.

Speakers at a Labour Temple meeting following the torchlight parade stressed that the Panthers have armed themselves as the only means of self-defence in the face of constant police violence against all Blacks.

"The Black Panthers wanted the police to know that they could no longer wantonly murder Blacks --innocent or not -- without facing the consequences. They were responding to the continual and 'ordinary' violence that police have unleashed in the ghettoes.

"They decided that from that time on, deaths in the ghettoes would be political deaths," Jessie Hogg, a graduate student at Regina Campus, said.

Other speakers pointed out that Hampton and a large number of other Panthers have been murdered systematically by the police because they are trying to build a class movement in America to overthrow imperialism and capitalism. They are murdered because there is a growing demand in the U.S. for socialism -- power for the people rather than the ruling class.

According to Harry Daniels, the struggle which the Panthers are waging is the same struggle in which Indians and Metis, workers, students, and people in Quebec are engaged. It is a struggle against the exploitation of people which is inherent in international capitalism, a struggle to ensure that people will be able to control the institutions that affect them.

Peter Larson, a graduate student in economics, discussed the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He maintained that the RCMP was and is designed to function exactly as did the police who murdered Hampton, and that people should expect them to resort to the same legalized terrorism if peoples' struggles become as effective as the Panthers'.

He reminded the audience that this is exactly how the RCMP acted in the Winnipeg General Strike, the Regina Riot and the Estevan Massacre --as armed agents of the ruling class.

George Smith, president of the Regina Labour Council, expressed his solidarity with the Panthers, especially their efforts to put socialism into practice with hot breakfast programs and free medical clinics. He said many people in Canada and the U.S. are left to die slow deaths by malnutrition and poverty, and that these deaths are just as much the result of our social system as the deaths by gunfire which Blacks and Indians meet every day.

REQUIEM FOR BROTHER FRED

OUT OF THE DEPTH OF THEIR FEAR AND HATE
THEY CAME KNOCKING ON HIS HUMBLE DOOR
WITH DRAWN GUNS AND KNOTTED GUTS
THEY CAME TO KILL IN THE NAME OF THE LAW

WHILE MY BROTHER SLEPT HIS ANXIOUS SLEEP
IN THAT LONELY OUTPOST WHERE CHILDREN WEEP
AND MOTHERS DRY THEIR TEARS WITH PROMISES
OF BETTER TOMORROWS

SOME DIE THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE
SOME LIE THAT OTHERS MIGHT SMILE
SOME STEAL THAT OTHERS MIGHT EAT
SOME FIGHT THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE FREE

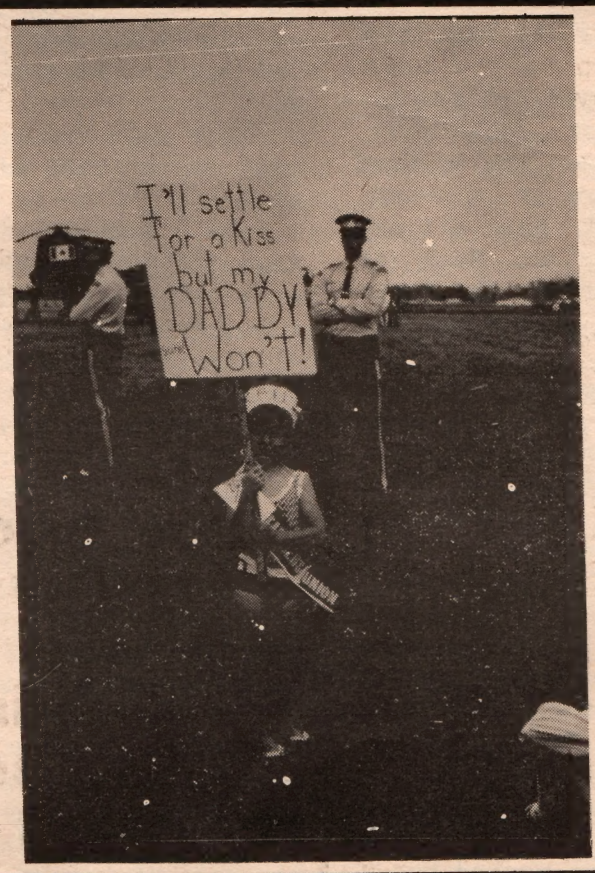
THE PIGS WHO BURNT MY BROTHER
BURNT ME AND TEN MILLION OTHERS
WE SHALL NOT FORGIVE
WE WILL NOT FORGET

--Len Keith Blackbrother

A PICTURE IS WORTH

This is one sign that did not make national news when Prime Minister Trudeau visited Saskatchewan last July. It appeared at a farmers' demonstration in Humboldt.

This little girl's father is a farmer in the Kelvington district. He had just had his power shut off in June. He and three other farmers had to go without power, because they could not sell enough wheat to make ends meet.



A THOUSAND WORDS

The situation should never have happened. Each of the three farmers is worth many thousands of dollars. One had 25,000 bushels of wheat in his granaries.

The Saskatchewan Farmers' Union protested the action, and after four days the power was restored.

This incident, along with many others -- equipment seizures, bankruptcies--were high in the minds of farmers who attended last week's SFU convention in Saskatoon.

FARM LABOUR

OR

LIFE AMONG THE LOWLY

by DON FORSYTHE

People of Saskatchewan are generally well aware that farming is one of the most poorly paying of businesses.

When you consider the long hours of labour, often under difficult conditions, the skills of production and management which must be developed and applied, and the amount of capital that is tied up in land, machinery and buildings, it is easy to see that the income of the average farmer is quite low.

It is not surprising that farm labourers, the group that the farmers must exploit, are amongst the lowest paid and most ill-used people in the country.

Let me illustrate this last sentance with some personal experience.

In 1966, I picked strawberries in the Fraser Valley of B.C.

This is a backbreaking task which requires you to crawl along the rows with eyes almost at ground level so you won't let a single precious berry escape your grasp. Sometimes we were even expected to work in the rain.

On a good day you could make as much as $7.50, on a bad day, as little as $3.

Our quarters were an ancient shack with a cement floor and a very leaky roof. Our source of heat was an old wood stove. (A standard fixture in all pickers' shacks.)

The stove also served at meal times not only the four residents of our shack but also six or eight other people, mostly schoolchildren.

In southern Ontario in 1968 I worked for a while on a dairy farm. Nine hours a day, six days a week loading straw bales in 90 degree weather.

The pay was $1.25/hour, a standard rate in those parts The meals were great as I ate with the family but I slept on bales in the hay loft. When I left they docked me $2 a day for board.

Besides the low pay and minimal accomodation a hazard of farm work which is frequently encountered is poison.

For example, apple trees are sprayed 15-20 times during a growing season with many different compounds, some of them dangerous to humans.

At the end of a day's picking, your hands are sticky from the poisons remaining on the leaves.

According to the United Farm Workers of California a grape picker has three times as much DDT in his body as the average American.

Similar statements could be made about people who have worked many years in Canadian vineyards and orchards.

Given the nature of farm labour it is not surprising that one encounters on these jobs members of the most exploited groups in our society. The people I have worked with have belonged to one of the following groups:

1) Native People - It is rare to work on a farm of any size without having some Indians as fellow workers. Once I even worked with an Eskimo in the Niagara Peninsula;

2) Negroes - By agreement between the governments of Canada and Jamaica and the growers of Southern Ontario, Negroes are imported on four month contracts at $1.45/hr. plus accomodations.

These workers are not allowed to stay in this country a day longer than needed, unless they can find someone to sponsor them as immigrants. Quitting before their contract is up means they have to pay plane fare back home;

3) Newly Arrived Immigrants: $1.25/hr. must look fairly good to a person coming from a country where it is necessary to work hard all day merely to survive. Much of the farm work in the South Okanogan is done by people from Portugal.

4) Young People : This is perhaps the most exploited group on the farm labour scene. Much of the Strawberry, raspberry, and blueberry crops are harvested by children of from 10-16 years of age.

Last year in Nova Scotia a group I was with picked strawberries for a few days. Most of our fellow workers were schoolchildren.

We left town each morning for an hour's ride to the fields in a jam-packed bus.

When the bus got back to town at 5 p.m. many of the kids had only two or three dollars to show for a days worth of crawling on their hands and knees in the hot sun. To add insult to injury 25 cents a day was deducted for the bus ride.

During this same time but on a day we were not present one busload was organized, for strike action by an enterprising teen-ager during the ride to the field. The demand was for a raise from seven cents to 10 cents/lb of strawberries.

This would have increased their day's pay to $3-$4.

The strike not only failed, but anyone who took part in it was prevented from working again during that season. All this occurred in an operation closely supervised by the Federal Dept. of Manpower.

	top quality apples	strawberries
Retail price	33 cents/pound	40 cents/pound
Price to farmer	14 cents	18 cents
Price to picker	½ cent	6 cents

*all prices approximate

5) Housewives - Many women who live in farming areas often work during the peak seasons to supplement their husband's pay cheques. Other women who are in the position of having to support a family find that farm jobs are easiest for them to obtain.

6)Those who are unable or unwilling to fit into the straight world - Hippies, vagabonds, alcoholics and people temporarily out of a job for one reason or another.

What role does government play in the life of the farm worker ?

The Federal Government certainly plays an active role in the recruitment and placing of farm labourers.

The Department of Manpower sets up temporary offices all over the farm lands during busy seasons.

Workers are sent out to any farmer who requests them On farms where conditions are especially bad, Manpower is always ready with new replacements to fill the gaps.

Some Manpower agents try to be good guys and offer you a job you can tolerate. But since their real function is to fill available openings, they will often exaggerate the amount of money you can earn on a job.

For example, once in Toronto, I was told that tomato pickers in the Windsor area were earning $12/day. I accepted the job, was sent 250 miles away from the city, and was placed on a farm where you could only earn about $4/day.

But the best example of this type of thing happened to me in Nova Scotia when I heard a Manpower agent telling about an Indian who had made $20/day picking strawberries.

Now I don't doubt that somewhere in Nova Scotia there exists someone who, one day, made $20 picking strawberries.

But it was also true that this same agent was organizing the children who were making $2 or $3 a day at the same task. Needless to say, he didn't mention this last fact to the potential pickers.

Once the worker is actually on the job, the government swiftly disappears from the scene. I never saw nor heard of any such thing as government inspection of living quarters or working conditions.

Though fruit sometimes rots on trees for want of pickers, the great majority of farm labour positions are somehow filled. This is partly because there are certain positive attractions to the life of a farm worker.

In the first place you are away from the city. Working outdoors in the summertime is far preferable to working in a factory. The piecework system at least allows you to take a short break whenever you want.

Secondly jobs are plentiful, at least for the peak months, and can be picked up and abandoned as one pleases

Strangely enough, the idea that you can make a lot of money picking fruit is a big factor in attracting people into this occupation. Everyone has heard of the $25 a day apple picker, even if he has never met him.

These ideas have their basis in the fact of certain highly experienced hard workers, who by knowing the best farms to work on, and the best times to work them, can make up to $25-$30/day, at least for short periods of time.

The ignorant novice, attracted by these stories and the exaggerations of other pickers (who wants to talk about his $5 days when he can talk about his $15 day?) ends up earning far less than he expected.

What of the future of the farm labourer ?

At the present time the only two factors which could conceivably change the farm labour situation are mechanization and government intervention.

Mechanization will come

cont. on Page 5

HOSPITAL STRIKE SPECIAL

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REGINA, SASK. Postage Paid in Cash at Third Class Rate Permit No. 6145 DECEMBER, 1969

ESTEVAN WORKERS DEMAND LIVING WAGE

Non-medical employees at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan went on strike on October 24th.

Since that time, workers at Victoria Union Hospital in Prince Albert have also gone on strike, and workers in hospitals at Humboldt, North Battleford, Weyburn, and Yorkton have voted to strike.

Employees at all these hospitals are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. All are demanding contracts based on the recommendations of the Conciliation Board in the Estevan strike.

The Board unanimously recommended an 8.4% wage increase twice in each of the next two years. This means that the workers would receive 28% more in October, 1970, than they did in October, 1968.

The figures in the box on this page show that they need that raise.

It is rare for a Conciliation Board to make such a decision unanimously. When it does happen, it is usually assumed that a settlement will be made immediately on the basis of that decision.

But the hospital boards cannot make such a settlement. Premier Thatcher has refused to grant them more than a 6% increase in their budgets.

Since the beginning of the strike, Premier Thatcher has also threatened to invoke the Essential Services Act, commonly referred to as Bill 2, in order to force the strikers back to work. He has also said he would be very surprised if the Arbitration Board that would be set up under Bill 2 gave the workers more than 6%.

According to Gordon Quaale, CUPE representative, "the only other time this act was used was on the Power Corporation employees, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. And they were slaughtered."

The hospital workers have received strong support, both material and moral, from the OCAW in the present strike.

If the provincial government pays for the wage increase the workers need, it would receive a 50% reimbursement from the federal government. If municipalities are left with the cost, the entire burden will fall on the shoulders of local taxpayers.

The people of Saskatchewan voted in 1947 and again in 1960 in favor of the principle that health care should be the responsibility of all the people in the province. In refusing to grant hospital boards the money they need to make a reasonable settlement, the provincial government denies this principle.

A further demand of the hospital workers--that future contracts be negotiated on a province-wide basis -- reinforces the principle of provincial responsibility.

The present stalemate must not be allowed to continue. The welfare of a great number of people is at stake.

The PRAIRIE FIRE supports the hospital workers of Saskatchewan in their just struggle for a decent living wage.

The average wage in the Estevan Hospital is $273.34-a-month. The provincial average is $470.11.

Some male employees take home as little as $260-a-month. The same employee could get $297-a-month by going on welfare.

The poverty line established by the Economic Council of Canada is $1.75-an-hour. The conciliation board report the government refuse to implement (the union has accepted reluctantly) will still leave some employees earning less.

A laborer in Estevan City has been offered $2.33-an-hour for next year. A trained orderly in the hospital earns $1.79-an-hour.

What other choice but strike.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL CRISIS MEETING

DISCUSS THE ISSUES WITH LABOUR SPOKESMEN

DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACTION TO RESTORE DECENT WAGE LEVELS AND DECENT HEALTH CARE

Co-Sponsored By:

Regina Labour Council
Students' Union, University of Saskatchewan, Regina

REGINA LABOUR TEMPLE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 8p.m.

1915 OSLER St.

Canadian Union of Public Employees
Saskatchewan Federation of Labour

BILL 2 - PUBLIC INTEREST?

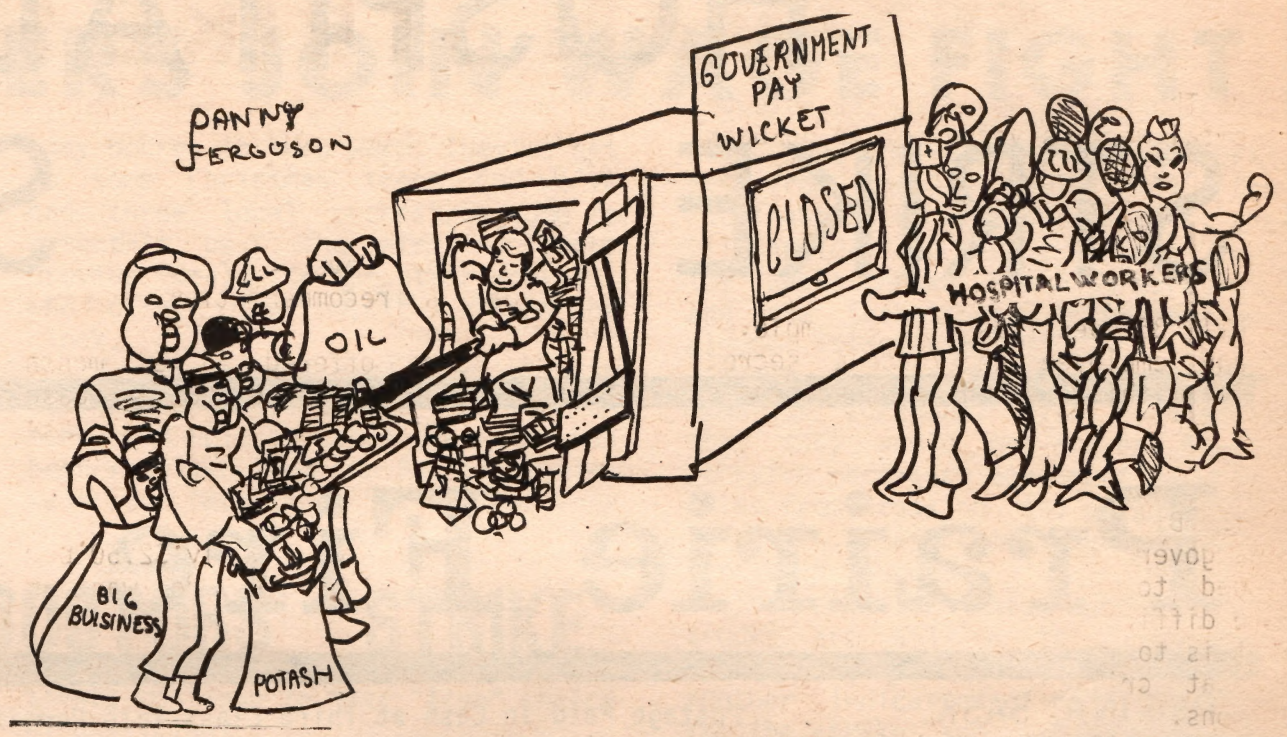
The strike of Saskatchewan hospital workers, in the face of threatened government action through Bill 2, should have the support of all workers and farmers in the province.

Bill 2, the "essential services" act, is designed to prevent workers from exercising their normal right to strike for better working conditions and wages. Without the right to strike, a union is powerless and has no meaning except on paper.

If the government wishes to ensure that essential services are not interrupted, then it must guarantee workers in those services adequate wages and decent working conditions.

At a time when the economic situation in the province is increasingly unstable, collective bargaining is essential. Bill 2 was part of the hospital strike from the very beginning--as an ever-present threat. It will continue to hamper the attempts of *all* public employees to better their living conditions.

But the Thatcher government, ignoring the real needs of health care in the province, continues to flaunt the democratic rights of trade unions. It it just the hospital workers?



The lack of markets for wheat, a problem that federal government spokesmen feel may not improve, has been the province's excuse for its tight budget. But what has the government done to protect the farmer? Has the Premier ever challenged the right of the monopoly flour mills and giant food processing companies to profit millions of dollars at the expense of the farmers?

If the economic situation in the province is at the bottom of the problem, then all we can expect is more Bill 2's, more government intervention in strikes, and the further destruction of trade union rights.

That is what "public interest" means to the pro-capitalist Thatcher government.

It is ironical for the Liberal Government to cry "public interest" in the case of the hospital strike. Isn't it the same government that instituted deterrent fees, squeezed open the doors for the profit-hungry private insurance companies and argued against the right of citizens to have equal access to medical treatment?

SASK.HEALTH PLANS SOLD OUT

The hospital crisis in Saskatchewan is spreading and deepening. Still the province turns a deaf ear. Hospital employees, municipal governments (including Regina), and ordinary citizens are dismayed at the provincial government's unwillingness to fulfill its obvious responsibility for health care.

The provincial government continues to mask its real power and responsibility. Instead, it applies indirect pressures to ultimately-powerless local hospital boards. It forces them to continue operating on below-minimum budgets.

Provincial officials point to inflation as the culprit and bemoan the farmer's inability to pay for rising hospital costs. Yet they are willing -- even eager --for municipalities to make up the difference.

The provincial government claims that responsibility for the hospital crisis lies with the local boards. This is clearly a lie. The boards cannot meet workers' wage needs unless the provincial government agrees to give them more money.

In refusing to do this, the government has gone against the recommendations of its own Conciliation Board.

The government has refused to pay more for hospital care even though it knows that the federal government would match its extra allocations on a 50-50 basis. The only alternative is for municipalities to provide the extra money, but the municipalities would have to supply all the needed funds on their own.

In any case, city taxpayers are already overburdened. They could not afford the necessity of bailing the provincial government out of its responsibility.

It is the government that has forced the hospital boards to cut services, lay off nurses, and put a ceiling on already inadequate wages.

Relying on the old maxim "divide and rule," the government has chosen to pit the farmer and taxpayer against the hospital worker. By some curious logic, it has decided that hospital workers or city taxpayers should foot the bill for the rising costs of hospital care. This is no small burden.

The people of Saskatchewan decided several years ago that the costs of medical and hospital care should, could and would be shared by all of us. This decision was not made easily, but it was made. It represented a great advance in the health, security and well-being of the people of the province.

Now we are told we can no longer afford it. Can we or can't we? What can we afford? What can't we afford?

We can no longer afford the excessively inflated profit margins on drugs and hospital equipment.

We can no longer afford low wage levels and unemployment, whether in the hospitals or in the economy generally. Both increase poverty in the province, and poverty leads directly to more diseases and disabilities.

We can no longer afford to overlook the profits derived from the manufacture of poisons in our food, air and water.

We can no longer afford to tax the sick in the form of deterrent fees and fees for physiotherapy treatments. We certainly cannot afford to let the government succeed in destroying our medicare program, as it is trying to do.

We can no longer afford to subsidize foreign corporations in the form of tax holidays, incentive programs, and road-building, at the expense of adequate provincial income for health, education and welfare programs.

We can and must reorganize the production, accumulation and administration of provincial wealth and resources. We can and must control our natural environment. We have to find and allocate resources to pay for the research necessary to develop an effective program of preventive medicine.

We can no longer afford a free-enterprise approach to health care. Co-operative consumer control of facilities, equipment, and doctors' and medical services must replace the present powerlessness of individual patients. Co-operation and consultation between doctors must replace the present inefficiency and expense of private practice.

We can no longer afford to ignore these ready and proven methods of reducing costs and improving health care. We can no longer afford a government which relies on opportunism and power politics when what is needed is co-operation and long-term planning, with the real needs of all the people in mind.

The time has come for us to refuse to allow our name to be taken in vain. We *are* the "public" and we support the strike. We support it because all working people must strive to better their condition by whatever means necessary. The onus is on the provincial government.

ESTEVAN STRIKE HISTORY

On Thursday, Nov. 27, the Estevan hospital workers voted not to go back to work and to continue their strike. The vote was one of the first taken in Saskatchewan under Bill 35, a recent amendment to the Trade Union Act.

Bill 35 specifies that an employer or any employee can force a secret ballot within a union on management's most recent offer. This vote can be forced at any time after a strike has been in progress for 30 days.

The Bill is another in the provincial government's battery of laws designed to make successful strikes more difficult and unlikely. Its intent is to force divisions within unions at critical periods in strike actions.

On Nov. 21, when the strike reached its 30th day, a hospital board lawyer delivered a document entitled "Management's Final Offer" to the union. The union took its vote six days later. It showed by its decision that it is solid, that it would not be broken up and demoralized by the lack of a decent settlement.

Management's final offer was a flat 6% wage increase, which comes nowhere near covering the Conciliation Board's recommendation and the union's demand.

The Board offered $5 per month back pay for 1968 and a 6% increase for 1969. But the Board will not make an offer for 1970, insisting instead that this decision be made separately.

The workers want only $2.50 per month for 1968, but they do want an 8.4% increase in each of the two halves of 1969, and in each of the two halves of 1970.

The union feels it should be negotiating for 1970 as well as 1969. The Board wants to put the decision for 1970 off, hoping to buy time.

The Board also singled out particular workers for special raises, another attempt to divide the union and buy it off.

The Estevan strike is slowly but surely destroying over 20 years of good labour-management relations in the hospital.

The deterioration of good relations is all the more tragic and evil because it is not the fault of either party in the dispute. Instead, it is the provincial government and its anti-health care and anti-union policies which is basically responsible

But in April, 1968, after refusing to negotiate a contract with the union, the hospital implemented a schedule of wage rates which the union members unanimously rejected.

In November, 1968, the union took the hospital before the Labour Relations Board on a charge of unfair labour practice for failure to bargain collectively. The hospital was found guilty and was instructed to negotiate with the union. The hospital appealed this decision through the Court of Queen's Bench. The appeal was dismissed, and in February of this year the court again ordered the hospital board to bargain with the union.

Negotiations began, but the parties were unable to reach an agreement. On May 7, the union members voted 94 per cent in favour of striking. Further efforts by the union did not change the hospital position, so the strike date was set for June 5.

This union decision was quickly followed by the hospital applying to the minister of labour for a board of conciliation, which was set up. The union agreed to postpone the strike so that the conciliation board could be constituted.

In the period from August 26 to September 19, the board held nine meetings and submitted a unanimous recommendation for a 8.4 percent increase in wage levels.

The union accepted the board's unanimous recommendations, but the hospital still would not make a settlement, as they had been informed that the government would not cover the cost of the wage increase.

On October 24, the union struck.

SFL BRIEF TO THATCHER

"Mr. Thatcher said he'd be very surprised if a Compulsory Arbitration Board, established if Bill 2 were invoked, gave us more than a 6% wage increase," according to Barrie Davis, Canadian Union of Public Employees representative.

Bill 2 is the Essential Services Emergency Act. Mr. Thatcher is warning the hospital workers that he has the power to force them to accept a wage increase considerably smaller than that recommended unanimously by a government appointed Conciliation Board.

Mr. Thatcher made the comment at a meeting last week when the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour presented its annual brief to the government.

A section of the brief dealing with hospital bargaining called for hospital negotiations to be conducted on a province-wide basis.

" Any discussion of hospital and other collective bargaining problems cannot exclude consideration of Government policies and priorities which seem to us to constitute a factor of crucial significance."

The brief urged that wage rates at Estevan and all other hospitals be brought in line with those in Alberta. Hospital wages in Alberta start at $1.75 per hour. At present. wages in Estevan start at $1.32 per hour.

In an interview with the PRAIRIE FIRE, Mr. Davis said the cost of medicare has risen from $60 million since 1964. Workers wages have not risen comparably during that period.

" According to D.B.S. statistics, doctors are the highest paid professionals in Canada. At the bottom of the scale are pensioners. And next to the bottom are public employees in the hospitals."

Mr. Davis said that Bill 2, the Essential Services Emergency Act, is supposed to protect the average person from the loss of essential services. If it is invoked in this case, the hospital workers will believe that it is a tool of the government to keep them in line.

WELFARE OR WORK?

Clem Cossett works at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan. He is on strike to win a 28% increase in his wages.

The following excerpt from a pamphlet distributed by his union explains why.

My name is Clem Cossett.

I am married and have six children. Five of them are still living at home. The kids at home are ages 13, eight, seven, five and three.

I have worked at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan for 24 years. I am in the engineering and maintenance classification, and that puts me at the top of the salary scale.

On October 23, I and 91 other employees of the hospital who are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees went on strike.

It was not an easy decision we had to make to strike the hospital, but we had tried everything else.

I am one of the highest paid people in the hospital, and still I would be better off collecting welfare instead of wages.

My gross wages are $385-month after deductions I take home $366.19 a month.

If it's this bad for me, imagine how bad off all the others are. Some people earn as little as $230 a month.

Collection of welfare and non-payment for drugs, glasses, medicare and dentists' bills would net me $392.45 a month.

In other words, I could make $26 more a month by quitting my job at the St. Joseph's hospital and going on welfare. I'm on strike to win my dignity, and more than poverty wages.

CLEM COSSETT'S EARNINGS
AS AN EMPLOYEE
OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, ESTEVAN

Gross Monthly Wage	$385.00
Income Tax	6.65
Canada Pension	6.03
Union Dues	3.75
Group Insurance	2.38
Total Deductions	18.81
Take-Home Pay per Month	$366.19

IF CLEM COSSETT WERE ON WELFARE
IN ESTEVAN

Food Allowance	$142.50
Clothing	52.90
Personal Allowance	9.60
Household Incidentals	4.40
Utilities	18.25
Rent	100.00
Heating	11.80
Savings on Drugs, Optical Medicare and Dentists' Bills	53.00
Total Benefits on Welfare per Month	$392.45

Clem Cossett would get $26 more as a welfare recipient than as a wage-earner --and Clem is one of the highest paid of all hospital workers in Saskatchewan. Almost every other hospital worker would be better off on welfare than working.

P.A.WORKERS JOIN WAGE FIGHT

(PRINCE ALBERT) "Mr. Thatcher said we could stay there until hell freezes over," said Doug Lavallee, in an interview with the PPAIRIE FIPE, "but we aren't going to let hell freeze over."

Doug Lavallee is president of Local 80 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Prince Albert. Local 80 is striking Victoria Union Hospital for a raise in wages.

" The people on the picket line play hockey to keep warm. They've set up some Christmas trees. And we've had three local orchestras come to entertain us." The striking cooks provide meals for the other workers, who picket the hospital around the clock.

"Morale is real good," Mr. Lavalle continued. Support, in the form of money and help on the picket line has been received from the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store union from the Co-op, the Pulp and Sulfide Workers from the P.A. Pulp Mill, the Packinghouse Workers from Burn's, the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, and the Saskatchewan Government Employees Association.

When the strike began,the union made an agreement with management that they would not prevent trucks carrying necessary equipment and supplies from crossing the picket line. In return, management agreed not to hire scab labour.

The picketers have found that few trucks are willing to cross their lines without an escort of workers -- another indication of public support for the strike and solidarity with the strikers.

Negotiations between the workers and hospital management started at the beginning of this year when their contract expired. Union negotiators at that time asked for a settlement basde on the wage rates at Regina General hospital.

After several months of negotiations, hospital management offered the union a 7.5% wage increase for 1969 and a 7 per cent increase in 1970. The union accepted this offer with the exception of the last six months of 1970, where they asked that wage increases be adjusted up to the level recommended by the conciliation board in the Estevan dispute.

But on October 24, when the managment realized that they would not receive an expected increase in their budget, they retracted their previous offer. They substituted an offer of a 6 per cent increase for 1969.

Since that time, there have been no negotiations. The union went on strike on November 16th.

According to DBS statistics, the average wage in P. A. is $108 per week. The average weekly wage at the hospital is about $68. Minimum wage at the hospital is $1.38 per hour.

As the picketers put it, "We don't live, we exist."

REMEMBER THE DOCTORS' STRIKE

Over seven years ago, the people of Saskatchewan saw another crisis in health services. The issue then was medicare.

Saskatchewan's doctors overwhelmingly opposed a plan introduced by the provincial CCF government. Repeated attempts to start negotiations failed, and on July 1, 1962, a province-wide doctors' strike began.

The roots of the 1962 Medicare crisis lay deep in Saskatchewan's history.

By 1930, farm communities in the province had pioneered a co-operative approach to provision of medical services unique in North America.

Municipal doctor payment plans, union hospitals, and municipal insurance plans helped provide adequate medical service for rural residents of the province.

Doctors at the time were not opposed to state-financed medical insurance schemes. In 1933, when many doctors were on " relief ", the Saskatchewan Medical Association endorsed the principle of a public health insurance plan.

After the Second World War, doctors who had served Saskatchewan's pioneer farm communities began to retire. By 1959, over half of the province's doctors were residents of Saskatoon or Regina.

Over the same time period, Canadian doctors began to adopt the rigidly conservative approach to health services of the American Medical Association. The AMA had fought long against compulsory tax-financed medical insurance in the U.S.

In the 1960 provincial election, the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons spent $95,000 in a vain attempt to defeat the Douglas administration on the central issue of medicare. In doing so, the doctors aligned themselves openly with the Liberal Party and provincial chambers of commerce. Following the CCF victory, the Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act was born.

Prior to the strike in July,1962, the medical profession was able to generate a powerful campaign in support of its position.

The propaganda of the Keep Our Doctors (KOD) played heavily on the fears of many Saskatchewan citizens that medicare would mean losing their doctors. The " doctor-patient relationship " was said to be endangered. The government was accused of using compulsion when voluntary health insurance was sufficient. These fears all proved to be groundless.

Medicare in Saskatchewan did not lead to an exodus of doctors. Patients continue to have "free" choice of physicians.

Behind the talk of threats to personal freedom, it was clear that doctors saw themselves not as highly-skilled health workers, but as businessmen. Their best allies in the fight against medicare were other businessmen.

Leading members of the KOD included the owners of a large retail drugstore chain, a construction company owner and Chairman of the Board of Governors of Saskatoon City Hospital, and others active in local boards of trade and hospital boards. Many of these men were enthusiastic supporters of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party.

Premier LLoyd's government seemed helpless in the face of the alliance between the province's business and professional elite and the mass media.

In fact, the government did little to mobilize support for medicare among those who stood the most to gain: small and middle-income farmers and city wage-earners. There can be no doubt that by July 1, popular feeling against the government was running high.

The Saskatoon Agreement of July 23, 1962, brought an end to the strike. The government was forced to provide alternative methods of payment which would give doctors the illusion of the old system of private practice. The doctors accepted the reality of public tax-supported payment of medical bills.

The policy of "deterrent fees" introduced by the Thatcher government to stop alleged abuses of the medicare program and to cut health costs represents a serious erosion of the original purposes of medicare.

The same government has passed anti-strike legislation to limit efforts by employees in the public service to secure decent wages and working conditions. In the current hospital workers' strike, Premier Thatcher has offered use of Bill 2 to the Hospital Boards should they request it.

Seven years ago leaders of the Liberal Party and the business interests it represents supported the doctors in their opposition to medicare.

The doctors chose to defend what they saw as their professional interests by a withdrawal of services -- a strike. Compulsory bargaining was not imposed, nor was the strike declared illegal on the grounds that doctors provide an essential service. In fact, the strike forced the government to negotiate.

Prairie Fire

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Farmers and farm labourers : Establish unity and free yourself from economic ties.

FARM LABOUR PICTURE

cont. from Page 4

but, in contrast to grain farming, the technical difficulties of mechanizing fruit farming are enormous.

When this fact is combined with the still readily available supply of cheap labour it is not likely that the needed large amount of capital will be invested in the area in the near future.

As for change by government action, this is likely to come at an even slower pace.

As a group, the farm labourer is almost non-existant in the public conciousness. He is good for one or two stories a year in a few newspapers and perhaps a half hour of sympathy on the CBC. But in our society, governmental reforms are only likely after prolonged and hard-hitting publicity is focused on a particular trouble spot.

It follows that the farm worker in his present condition will be around for a long time to come.

oldies:

BACK ISSUES OF THE PRAIRIE FIRE ARE AVAILABLE. FOR A SAMPLE SELECTION OF FIVE COPIES:
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THE PRAIRIE FIRE,
2640 Angus Cres.,
Regina

WHAT'S THE MEDIA DOING?

AN OPEN LETTER
TO
SENATOR KEITH DAVEY,
CHAIRMAN,
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON MASS MEDIA,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Dear Mr. Davey,

When it was first announced that a special Senate Committee on the mass media was to be set up under your chairmanship,it appeared the ordinary people of Canada who have the problem because of this monopoly would be allowed to express their grievances to someone with authority.

It is disappointing to find out now that your Committee will not even leave Ottawa.

This means that rank and file Canadians who cannot afford the time and money to go to Ottawa will have little chance of getting their problems heard.

We see by the newspapers the people who own and control the mass media are being invited to come to Ottawa on your behalf and present their viewpoint.

A lot of people still do not understand the real purpose of your committee. If it is to find out who the people are who own and control the media, I think most informed Canadians know who they are.

What most of us would like to know, is what can be done about this monopoly,and the influence the big advertiser has on how our news is reported.

We are well aware that the large sums of money that the privately-owned media receives from their clients, (big business and big government) has a lot of bearing on how they handle news.

The people of Saskatchewan know what a tightly controlled monopoly can do to a province. We witnessed this during the medicare dispute. And we are witnessing it today. Two or three men on Bay Street in Toronto, and their editors are giving the Saskatchewan people a distorted account of the problems in our province. This is being done because of their anxiety to help an extreme right wing provincial government, a government which is willing to help big business exploit our people.

No one can doubt the power of a monopolized media to elect the kind of government they want. A professional massive propaganda program jammed into news stories,and newscasts, has proved most effective. It becomes a matter of which party can build up the most prime time on radio and TV and place the largest ads in the local newspapers.

Newspapers in Saskatchewan not only have absentee publishers, but we also have absentee editors. Editors from eastern Canada who know and care nothing about the problems of our people, but are the paid hack writers for the big establishments in the east and west, whose main concern is profits and not our people.

These editors' writings appear on the editorial page of dailies quite frequently but at election time they are jammed in, two or three times a week.

These people are neither taxpayers nor citizens of our province but they get wide coverage, while our own people who would like to correct their lies and misleading statements are sometimes denied the right to even have a letter published and if the letter is published the editor cuts out the parts he doesn't like.

Also attempts are made to intimidate a writer by telling him his letter may be libelous; this feeble excuse has been used many times to deny a subscriber the right to express his own views.

I have had newspapers write an editorial criticising briefs which I presented to federal and provincial appointed committees. While my name is mentioned in the editorial, it is impossible to find out who writes the editorial as no name is ever attached. Only in one case was I successful in having a letter published in reply, and only after I wrote the owner of the paper in Toronto. In the long delay of about a month, my letter was not too effective since most readers had, by that time forgotten what the contents of the editorial, were.

If you and your committee, Senator Davey, are concerned about the monopoly of the mass media and are anxious to see the average Canadian get fairer treatment, then you must get up some office or agency in the larger centers across Canada where people can take their complaints and see that justice is done. Otherwise your investigation and any set up of a department in Ottawa, will prove as useless and ineffective as our Dept. of Consumer Affairs under Mr. Basford.

Many Canadians across Canada (and I lived in Ontario for 10 years are being told if they do not like the way their newspaper is published they can always go to a lawyer and seek justice in the courts.

This is like telling the proprietor of the little service station on the corner that he is free to sue General Motors or set up his own factory in competition.

I do not know if the problems of radio and T.V. open line shows is to be investigated by your committee but ceratinly the C.R.C.T. or somebody is going to have to look into this mess of worms.

Open line shows have become just another outlet for the establishment, ninety per cent of the invited guests who sit in the studio with the T.V. or radio host are either representatives of government or business all trying to justify to the people why our taxes must go up and, in the case of business why they are losing money and must have more money for their products.

If you do not agree with the host and his guest, you are insulted and sometimes you are subjected to libelous statements from the phone-in guests who always remain anonymous.

When one gentleman phoned in and identified me by name and then said," I heard Mr. McLeod say he would take a gun and shoot somebody. " This man confused me with another party who had phoned a few days earlier and made a threatening remark.

When my lawyer took action against the radio station, because there was no way of finding out who the caller was who mistakenly made this libelous statement against me, we could do nothing.

I have written to the former B.B.G. and to the new C.R.C.T. asking that regulations be changed and that all guests phoning in on open line shows be required to state their name as is in practice with the CBC radio open line show known as, " Cross-Country Checkup ".

Saskatchewan people have survived invasion by the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920's, the dust storms of the depression 1930's, along with grasshoppers and other pests but the worst curse of all is this monopolized news media in our province.

Government committees have proven a waste of the taxpayers money in the past as far as Saskatchewan is concerned. But hope springs eternal, and we are a patient people. We will wait and see if your committee is another waste of the taxpayers' money.

Yours truly,

D. A. McLeod
2068 Robinson Street
Regina

STUDENT RIGHTS SHORN

By LYLE BOLEN

The administration at Miller Composite High School has refused to recognize the desire of its students to abolish rules against long sideburns, moustaches and beards.

Once again it has shown that Regina's high schools aren't democratic.

Two months ago, the Students' Representative Council at Miller surveyed student opinions on various rules and regulations. While only 40 per cent of the students responded, 75 per cent of these were in favor of changing the bans on sideburns, moustaches and beards.

When the SRC approached the administration two weeks ago with the results of the questionairre, the administration refused to change the rules.

It said that rules could not be changed in the middle of the year, and that rule changes would have to be made in September. This is clearly just an excuse.

Various other arguments have also been used by the administration to justify its immobility. It has pointed out that only 40 per cent of the students voted in the survey, claiming that this makes the survey invalid.

In doing this, it is arguing that most of the elections in our society should be declared void. How many people voted in the recent civic election, for instance? Were the results declared invalid?

Another argument of the administrators was that the survey didn't have the same official power as a vote would have had.

But this is also ridiculous when you consider that the SRC *has no other powers*, vote or no vote. It has not been given the power to do *anything but* survey the students, and it has always been at the mercy of the administration.

The real point is that the survey *was* an indication of student opinion--the only one the SRC could have gotten. If the school was really democratic, it would have changed its rules immediately.

After the administration refused to comply with the students' wishes, a group of students organized and printed a pamphlet protesting the administration's inaction. The pamphlet threatened to call on the students to hold a mass demonstration.

Three students were harassed by the administration for passing out the pamphlets. They were forced to promise they would not pass out any more literature at the school.

By law, however, these students were within their rights to pass out leaflets as long as they stay on public property. The administration is taking action against them for exercising their legal rights.

The committee which drew up the pamphlet is now considering further action.

The administration has openly stated that it is school policy to suppress socialism and socialist ideas. This makes the school administration illegal, because it is openly contradicting the Bill of Rights and the principles of democracy.

• Workers World •

By DAVE MORGAN
As Told to RAY POOLE

Three years ago, in July, 1966, I started working as a pump attendant at the Sherwood Co-op Service Station, Albert and 12th. I was employed as a full-time worker for a year and on a part-time basis for nearly three years while attending university.

During the time I was working at the Co-op I met many worthwhile people, customers and management alike.

I am a firm believer in the Rochdale concept of co-operation, and because Sherwood Co-op has the only unionized service stations in Regina, I was in a position to observe the development and retardation of both co-operative principles and the principles of unionism.

The problems are many and varied in the operation of a co-operative facility in a large urban centre such as Regina. Perhaps the major problem is the present co-op management's practice of running the business as a mirror image of private enterprise, rather than as an alternative to it.

Sherwood Co-op has made little progress in the past four years in offering the people of Regina this alternative. Management at the Co-op's Number One Service Station has changed frequently, resulting in the cutting of staff and the deterioration of service.

In many cases, both managemen and employees have been "brought in off the street" without knowledge of co-operative principles. It doesn't take long for patrons to recognize this.

I have not been employed since the strike, but I would like to stress that this was my own decision and not a move provoked by management.

I have no personal quarrel with any present manager and I was treated in a reasonable manner during the term of my employment. However, in my opinion and in the opinions of many of my acquaintances and former customers, Sherwood Co-op is no longer a very friendly place to do business.

I'm writing about all of this in a "Workers World" column because these kinds of things are really very much a part of the working man's conditions--the purposes, goals and methods of dealing with customers which managements adopt.

Sherwood Co-op is trying to create a "manager's club" and with its connections with Federated Co-operatives it is federated that is now calling the shots, paying a percentage of management salaries and forcing member-owners to take it or leave it as far as policy and service are concerned.

In the station where I worked, it was much easier for a pump attendant to present the image of a person with no intelligence, ambition, or skill, with the possible exception of learning how to hold a gas hose and to clean windshields.

It is rare for an employee to be complimented for good work habits and initiative. I have been told by customers that I did a good job, and I met each customer with service, a smile and the realization that he must be encouraged to return.

This is more than can be said for most of the people around there, who were supposed to be building business and supplying the best possible service to the members.

I cannot count the number of times that either myself or one of the other employees was expected to service a yard-full of cars, operate the till, and cater to the whims of some of the customers who expected adulation and superior service from an employee he felt as his inferior.

When personal friends of management, or executives of Federated, put in an appearance in the yard, it was simply amazing to watch how management would leave their coffee and present the image of bustle and vigour.

At one time, Co-op #1 was the best service station in Regina. Our prices were among the lowest in town and because the employees were co-operatively-minded, service and performance were uppermost in their minds. They knew that if business grew, their security could not help but do the same.

Service has now reached a new low due to cut-backs on overall staffing and management featherbedding. Our prices are now such that the average working man cannot afford to bring his car in for service.

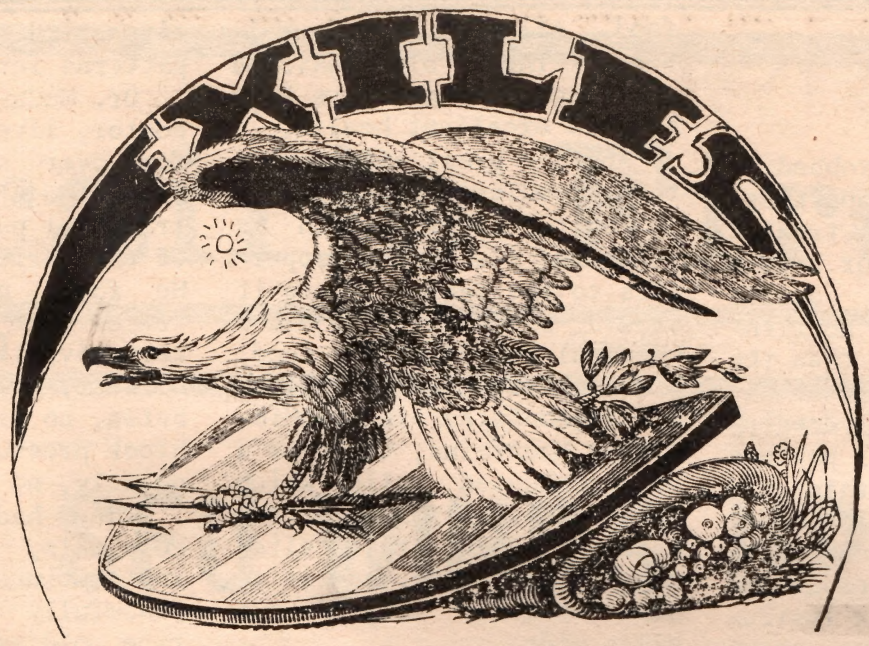
I would be foolish to quote prices from the labour manual for the mechanics shop because these are constantly being jacked up. This practice, and the astronomical mark-ups on shop supplies, has prompted more than one member to ask how long the management would stay in business if they operated their own facilities in such a fashion.

Many of our long-time customers are now dealing elsewhere.

The original concept of Rochdale co-operatives was equality for all. But many commercial enterprises are the exception to this principle simply because the businesses that buy gas from the Co-op have been treated in a way that contradicts this principle. Simply because they buy large amounts of gas, the management feels this entitled them to a 5-cent or 8-cent discount, while individual co-op members who patronize the Co-op only for their private cars get a discount of only 3 cents a gallon for three days at the end of the month. This smaller discount is in lieu of dividends.

As well, the businesses are not satisfied with this discount. They are always trying to seduce management into giving them large discounts on tires and other items.

But as long as business continues to roll in and profits are made at the expense of members, volume and window-dressing are considered alternatives to fair pricing, service and expansion.



By KAREN PERRIN,
Concerned Canadian working with the Regina Committee of American Deserters

Last spring, Immigration Minister J. Allan MacEachern openly stated that deserters would be considered as any other immigrants seeking admission to Canada.

On the surface this policy seems fair and equal, but let's look beneath the surface and see exactly who this policy allows in and who it rejects.

The present policy is based on a 100-point system. Those who are assessed 50 points or more are accepted. Those assessed less than 50 points are rejected.

Points are allotted for the following traits:

Age (between 18 & 35)	10
Relatives in Canada	5
Languages (English & French)	up to 10
Education (1 point per year)	up to 16
Job skills	up to 10
Occupational demand	up to 15
Demand in area of destination	up to 5
Personal Assessment	up to 15

Most G.I.'s don't speak French, most do not have relatives in Canada, and most will not attain maximum points for personal assessment, since this is up to the individual discretion of immigration officers and is based on a very short interview.

It is clear that the bulk of the points depend on education, job skills and demand. A professional, for example, would have no difficulty:

Age	10
Education	16
Job Skills	10
Demand	15
Total:	51

With just these four categories,a professional would be given all the needed points.

Consider, now, the unskilled worker:

Age	10
Education (assuming high school education)	12
Job Skills	1
Demand	1
Area of Manpower Shortage	5
Relatives in Canada	5
Personal Assessment	15
Total:	49

Even with these seven categories, including a relative in Canada, maximum personal assessment of 15 (very rare), and Grade XII (some only have Grade X), he doesn't make it.

Contrary to the myth that in America every boy can become president, most peoples' opportunities and freedom depend highly on the social class they happen to be born into.

Most working class youths have no finances for higher education or technical training. Many have to drop out of school to help support large families.

Members of minority groups -- Blacks, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, etc. -- have little educational or occupational opportunities available in the ghettoes. Many of these youth who do not have the money for education or job training enlist in the army, particularly because of the skills it will teach them.

Deserters face from one to five years in one of these stockades. Right now there is, in Regina, one fellow who was featured in the Oct. 6 issue of LIFE. He described the tortures and destructive punishment he received in Camp Pendleton, a Marine Corps prison. He was hanged from the ceiling and beaten.

He doesn't have points to get landed immigrant status.

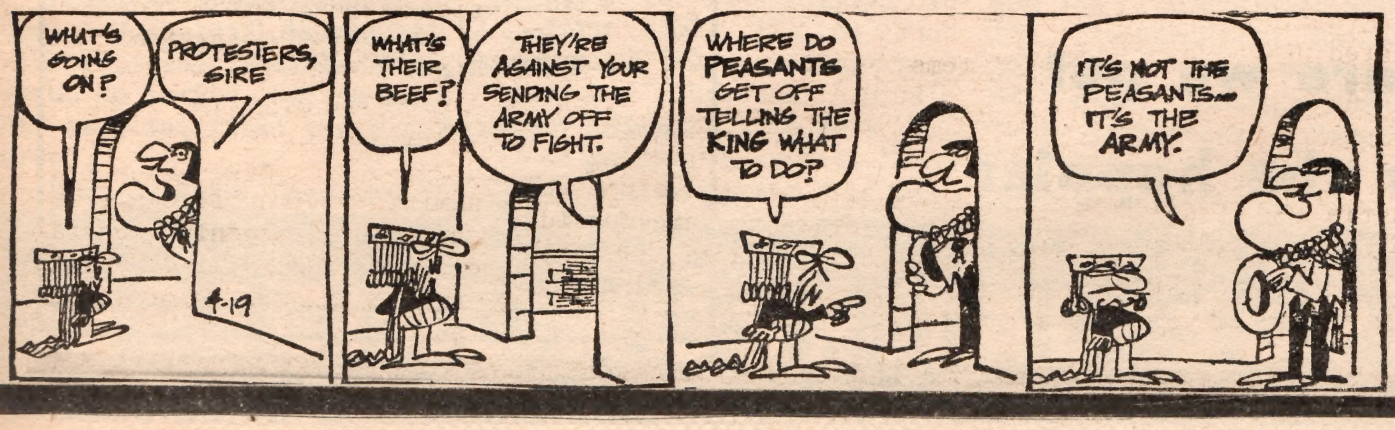
The Regina Committee of American Deserters recognizes that asylum -- political or humanitarian--is the only answer. Canadian complicity must end. Deserters, regardless of their class backgrounds or their potential profitability, must be allowed to stay in Canada.

It is often not until after this that they realize what the military machine is all about. When they desert and come to Canada, they find they are not particularly profitable and are rejected.

Our committee has lately been communicating our situation to labour unions, farmers, students and various religious groups. We have been asking for support from these people.

Many local groups have already sent proposals and letters to Minister MacEachern, pleading for asylum for deserters. We need more support.

We realize that this is not easy, considering Canada's undeniable economic and political subordination to the U.S. However, if nothing else, this issue once more exposes the contradictions existing in this so-called "free country."


WHAT'S GOING ON?
PROTESTERS, SIRE
4-19
WHAT'S THEIR BEEF?
THEY'RE AGAINST YOUR SENDING THE ARMY OFF TO FIGHT.
WHERE DO PEASANTS GET OFF TELLING THE KING WHAT TO DO?
IT'S NOT THE PEASANTS... IT'S THE ARMY.

UNIVERSITY THREATENED

The University of Saskatchewan, already on a shoestring budget, has been warned to brace for a serious financial shock in its requests for operating funds next year.

Provincial Treasurer Steuart announced that the University of Saskatchewan no longer can expect top priority and the special treatment it has had in the past.

The university he said must accept its share of the serious budget cuts necessitated by recession.

Dr. W. A. Riddell, Principal of the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, has stressed the, "...need to introduce new programs and classes to meet the demands " of the increasing student body.

Dr. Riddell said that "The University as a whole and this emerging campus particularly, is in severe difficulty now. The budgets have been inadequate for the past three years..."

He also complained that in the past few years "the budgetary situation has been such that it was unlikely that adequate funds would be avail - able to properly carry on existing programs"

The result has been a reduction in programs offered rather than the normal expansion.

Mr. Steuart expressed his fear that when the government "cuts money from the university, the university promptly drops its students."

This appears to be the case. Dr. Riddell is prepared to further limit the enrollment on Regina Campus.

Our university will not be allowed to expand, enrollment will be restricted, tuition fees will once again be raised.

The government is asking the university to make a request that it knows will be far from adequate . The presentation of a budget is a farce.

Dr. Riddell said on October 8th: "The Board of Governors has met several times with the Provincial Treasurer and has made its formal presentation to the cabinet... The government only agreed to an operating grant that would provide for a budget of 38.2 million without tuition fees included."

Obviously the university's budget is not a request. They have already been informed how much money they can ask for.

The university is not basing its budget in the needs of the university but rather on directives from the government.

FOOD STUFF

By MRS. INA BUEHLER

Modern man in practically all civilized countries is confronted with the age-old problem of how to procure his daily bread in such a way as not only to satisfy his craving hunger but also to replenish from day to day his worn-out tissues.

That the devitalized, counterfeit foods we buy through ordinary channels do not contain the necessary vital forces to maintain a body is recognized by increasing numbers of people, particularly those who have suffered ill health and have learned by the hard knocks of experience to do something about it.

They have found that the daily food fare of modern man is not what it is supposed to be or what it used to be.

They have found that economics plays an important role in the quality of food due to the dollars and cents evaluation of profits in the manufacturing and processing of foods.

Foods today are for the most part refined. This applies particularly to breakfast cereals and of course many other foods. These foods are not only robbed of all their living properties, but what is left is treated with bromide gas, or other bug poisons to the degree where there is more nourishment in the carton than the contents.

Shortenings are hydrogenated, which is a process that destroys lecithin and leaves us only cholesterol. This is the dangerous substance which settles around our arteries. It is instrumental in bringing about strokes and the dreaded coronary heart attacks, which are coming at an ever-increasing rate and at a much earlier age for people.

Our flour is bleached and gassed to the degree where it cannot sustain life. An experiment was conducted some years ago in Milwaukee on dogs. One dog received only white bread and water in his daily diet, while the other was given only water. The dog receiving the white bread died of convulsions from the bleaches used in whitening the flour, while the dog receiving only water outlived him.

Likewise, experiments were conducted with baby chicks receiving quick-cooking oats as their daily food. All died of malnutrition. The old-fashioned coarse oats would have kept them in excellent health.

Another great offender in this foodless food program is white sugar, which is robbed of its living properties to the degree where it should be classified as a chemical rather than a food.

Somewhere between Tibet and Afghanistan, in the Himalayan Mountains, there is a very enchanted valley which must closely resemble the Garden of Eden. It is called the Hunza Valley, and is about 100 miles long by two miles wide.

This valley is self-contained and with its population of 25,000 is an ideal place for study. Because of the valley's inaccessibility, inhabitants have been able to maintain their native traditions and living patterns intact.

Dr. McCarrison, a British doctor, lived in this valley for over seven years and conducted a study of its nutritional patterns on behalf of the British government. He found none of the diseases that plague our Western civilization: no heart disease, no cancer, no diabetes, no arthritis, no high blook pressure and consequently, no strokes.

They had never heard of hospitals, jails or mental institutions. They live peacefully together to the ripe old age of as high as 140 or 150 years.

This gives us something to think about; we who are so highly "civilized" stand in need of ever-more hospitals, mental institutions, and jails.

calendar of events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

" Sandwiched In " films at the Central Library Story Room, 12 - 12:50 P. M.: " Leonardo Da Vinci " and " Magic Fiddle ".

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

E. Power Biggs - Program of Organ Music at the Knox-Metropolitan Church, 8:00pm. Tickets - $3.00.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Children's programs at the libraries begin at 10:30

Music with Art Concert presents Murray Adaskin, composer, at 8:30 p.m. in the Library Story Room.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Festival of Nine Lessons at the Westminster United Church at 8:00 P.M.

it could be a

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